

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3886

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23376

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR PAK ENRG

SUBJECT: CHIRAC STATEMENT ON FRANCO-PAKISTANI

NUCLEAR SALE

REFS: (A) PARIS 23307; (B) PARIS 23311;
(C) PARIS 23312

1. WE BELIEVE THAT CHIRAC'S RADIO STATEMENT ON THE FRANCO-PAKISTANI NUCLEAR DEAL WAS ESSENTIALLY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND NOT INTENDED TO BE A DEFINITIVE EXPRESSION OF FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS. COMING FROM A UDR PRIME MINISTER, IT ALSO REFLECTS FRENCH SENSITIVITY TO QUESTIONS TOUCHING UPON SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE. THE FACT THAT CHIRAC GAVE US ADVANCE WARNING OF THE BLAST GIVES ADDITIONAL CREDENCE TO THE CONCLUSION THAT HE DID NOT WANT US TO TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY.

2. WE ALSO NOTE THAT HE SHOOT'S DOWN ANY IDEA OF A TRI-PARTITE CONFERENCE. THIS IS A "FREE SHOT" SINCE WE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE THINKING ALONG THOSE LINES.

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3. THE GOF WILL CONTINUE TO BE UNDER DOMESTIC PRESSURE

TO HOLD FIRM AGAINST THIS EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE FRENCH
PRESS HAS TERMED AMERICAN "HEGEMONIC TENDENCIES" AND
PRESS COMMENT MAY BECOME MORE ACERBIC BEFORE IT
TAPERS OFF. BUT WE THINK THAT THE GOF ALSO WILL WISH
TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION IN A LOW-KEY, COOPERATIVE
MANNER, AS VARIOUS FRENCH OFFICIALS ALREADY HAVE
STATED. THIS NATURALLY DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBIL-
ITY THAT PART OF THE DOMESTIC PRESS HABITUALLY
HOSTILE TO THE GOF WILL JUMP ON GISCARD FOR WHATEVER
NEW UNDERSTANDING THE GOF MIGHT EVENTUALLY REACH
WITH PAKISTAN AND THE USG.
GAMMON

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